

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-8 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukamoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,828) and further in view of Ito et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,814). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present claims are directed to a broadcasting method and broadcast receiver in which contents are outputted or played in a time period pre-specified by a broadcaster. A play command is broadcast including a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted contents sent from the broadcaster in a time period subsequent to a first time period during which the encrypted contents are sent from the broadcaster. The encrypted contents are retrieved and decrypted by using the decryption key for output in a third time period, which is different from the first time period, and pre-specified by the broadcaster. The decryption key is then deleted after the output from the receiving side.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the presently claimed features of the present invention. In the cited references, broadcasters cannot broadcast contents using a narrow bandwidth and have their users reproduce the contents at a time predetermined by the broadcasters. Furthermore, the broadcast

contents cannot be protected against being viewed in any time zone other than that predetermined by the broadcasting side.

On the other hand, Tsukamoto et al disclose a controlled-access broadcast signal receiving system in which a limited reproduction right is provided for reproduction of data by a user (see column 1, lines 28-37). In order to accomplish this, an access controller 28A is provided and controls the operation of an encipherer 22 and a decipherer 25 (see Fig. 2, and column 5, lines 5-10). Access controller 28A stores access control signals in and retrieves access-control signals from access condition memory 29 (see column 5, lines 14-16). The access-control signals indicate conditions to be placed on the reproduction of selected digital video signals. These conditions include: (1) previous receipt of a payment signal from a broadcasting station 101, (2) a numerical limit on the number of times particular video signals may be reproduced or displayed, (3) a temporal limit on the reproduction or display of video signals, and (4) previous receipt of a user authorization code (see column 5, lines 20-39).

While such limited reproduction rights are useful in preventing unauthorized dissemination of information and help obtain proper compensation for each reproduction, they do not satisfy the goals of the present invention. According to the present invention, encrypted contents are sent from a broadcaster in a first time period, a play command is broadcast including a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted contents in a second time period, and may be viewed in a third time

period. As a result, a narrow bandwidth can be used to broadcast the contents, while at the same time controlling the time zone during which they are viewed.

Tsukamoto et al are completely silent regarding this point. The Examiner acknowledges that Tsukamoto et al are silent regarding this point, but relies upon Ito et al for curing this deficiency. However, it is submitted that Tsukamoto et al cannot be combined with Ito et al to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Ito et al are directed to an AV server system which can reproduce data at a high speed and overcome problems in the prior art. Ito et al acknowledge that known AV server systems have a problem in reproducing data at high speed because the length of the time slot is selected on the basis of ordinary AV data reproducing operations (see column 2, lines 47-51). Ito et al further point out that previously known time slot allocation schemes are not very effective as the number of data sheets reproduced per unit time is reduced significantly during high speed data reproducing operations so that images may be displayed such as those of a slow-speed film and the operation of searching out any wanted image can become cumbersome in an editing session (see column 2, lines 58-64). As a result, Ito et al attempt to provide an AV server system that can output as many data sheets in a high speed reproduction mode as it can in an ordinary speed reproduction mode (see column 2, lines 64-67). Therefore, Ito et al's disclosure does not pertain to the presently claimed invention and cannot be combined with Tsukamoto et al to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

The portions of Ito et al cited by the Examiner, namely column 3, lines 10-26, lines 27-31 and lines 50-67, and column 5, lines 17-23, have nothing to do with the presently claimed invention of transmitting encrypted contents in a first time period, broadcasting a play command in a second time period and decrypting the encrypted contents for output in a third time period, pre-specified by a broadcaster. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of this application. As such, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time for such interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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